

To: Rauscher, Jon[Rauscher.Jon@epa.gov]
Cc: Turner, Philip[Turner.Philip@epa.gov]
From: McKean, Deborah
Sent: Fri 8/7/2015 7:28:52 PM
Subject: RE: Help

Thanks!

I was trying to contact Phil to just let you folks know what we were doing regarding data interpretation.

We actually have quite a bit of pre-incident data. Dan Wall had been conducting surface water studies for over a year in Cement Creek and the Animas. We have seen mostly aluminum, cadmium, calcium, chromium, copper, lead, magnesium, manganese and zinc. There are hundreds of adits leaking into surface water throughout the valley. Removal was trying to install a plug in one of the larger former gold mines when it blew. There was already quite a bit of water coming out of the mine and the blow forced quite a bit of sediment, acid and metals out into the surface water. Since the area is heavy in runoff anyway, the pre-incident water quality down to a few miles north of Durango did not support much aquatic life. So, I am not sure it would be reasonable to use traditional water quality criteria to evaluate the return to baseline. So, currently, I am relying on our pre-incident data – somewhat of a comparison to background.

There is the possibility of rain later today and Saturday. One concern is that the rain will merely force more water out of the mine causing a few more burps of colorful stuff. So, although right now, the water has improved a bit in looks near Silverton. I have to wait to see if that will continue.

The preliminary data from Aztec and Farmington, NM is just now coming in. Has that been shared with you yet?

From: Rauscher, Jon
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 12:58 PM
To: McKean, Deborah
Cc: Turner, Philip
Subject: Help

Hi Deborah,

Philip Turner and I are available to help if you need it.

Good luck, Jon